

and the dedication of the Franciscan Center for Science and Media. The Franciscan Center has been awarded Gold Status for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design by the United States Green Building Council. The Ford Motor Company Technology Wing offers opportunities for students to work collaboratively on class projects. From its humble beginnings Madonna University has been at the forefront of academic excellence.

Mr. Speaker, for 75 years Madonna University has been true to its mission and Franciscan values. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Madonna University and the Felician Sisters for their commitment to furthering education and their positive influence on our community and our country.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE E.J. "JOE"  
KING

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, Judge E.J. "Joe" King of Brazoria County has recently been honored with a distinguished alumni award from the University of Houston—Clear Lake. It is my pleasure to congratulate Judge King on this well-deserved award.

For the past 42 years, Judge King has served the people of Brazoria County in a variety of ways, including as a Department of Public Safety state trooper, a lieutenant in the Brazoria County Sheriff's Department, and as a Brazoria County Judge. Judge King has also served as President of the Brazoria County Peace Officers Association and the Southeast Texas Association for Identification and Investigation Officers.

Judge King's commitment to protecting and serving the people of Brazoria County was recognized by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which selected him to attend the FBI National Academy, one of the highest honors non-federal law enforcement can receive.

Judge King also served his community through involvement in numerous civic associations and volunteer efforts. He is currently a director of the Brazoria County Cattleman's Association and is a past director of the Brazoria County Fair and the Brazoria Association for Citizens with Handicaps.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Joe King is truly devoted to helping others in his community and serves as an example of which one person can make a difference in the lives of those around them. It is therefore my pleasure to once again congratulate Judge Joe King on receiving the distinguished alumni award from University of Houston—Clear Lake and thank him for all he has done for the people of Brazoria County.

DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING SERVICES  
ACCESS PROTECTION ACT OF 2011

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with 32 additional bipartisan House

members, to introduce the Diagnostic Imaging Services Access Protection Act of 2011. I am introducing this legislation to preserve patient access to important, life-saving advanced diagnostic imaging services, including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT), and ultrasound.

Radiologists are paid for the time, effort, and skill involved in interpreting images, rendering patient diagnoses, and reporting their findings as part of the medical record. A Proposed Rule by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) would cut the professional component reimbursement for radiologists by 50 percent through application of a multiple procedure payment reduction (MPPR) to the interpretation of multiple images for a single patient.

Under the Proposed Rule, CMS seeks to apply this MPPR policy to the professional component due to what we think is a flawed view that there are considerable "efficiencies" when the same patient receives multiple imaging services from the same radiologist during a single session. This substantial cut is a disservice to radiologists and ignores the fact that radiologists spend an equal amount of time, effort, and skill interpreting each diagnostic image, regardless of the number of images being examined, the section of the body being examined, or the particular date of the imaging service.

My legislation ensures that CMS does not arbitrarily undervalue the role of the radiologist within the health care delivery system. As you know, individuals receiving multiple imaging studies often represent the sickest and most complex patients seen by radiologists. Constituent radiologists contacting our offices in recent months have shared their concerns regarding the impact of this policy, particularly on patients who receive multiple scans during a single session and are typically affected by severe trauma, stroke, or widespread cancer.

Implementation of this flawed MPPR will disproportionately affect our most vulnerable patient population and could actually cost our health care system more in the long run. This action could force physicians who currently provide imaging services in a private practice setting to move to a hospital setting, causing these vital services to be reimbursed through the more expensive Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment Schedule (HOPPS), rather than the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule.

I urge all Members of the House of Representatives to lend their support to this bipartisan legislation dedicated to preserving patient access to community-based diagnostic imaging services.

CALIFORNIA AND E-VERIFY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a recent article in the Riverside Press Enterprise about E-Verify and the new California state law that will prevent cities and counties from requiring businesses to use E-Verify. It is disappointing that when so many other states are moving towards mandating E-Verify, California is going in the opposite direction. With unemployment at 12.1 percent in

California, preventing cities and counties from using E-Verify to ensure local residents have an opportunity to work makes no sense. Instead, the state is protecting illegal immigrants who are employed illegally. Furthermore, federal law already requires businesses to hire a legal work force; allowing the use of E-Verify simply gives employers the tool to ensure they can comply with existing law.

Again, many of us in California are outraged by Governor Jerry Brown's decision to sign this bill and deny cities and counties their right to require use of the E-Verify program. It is telling that the Governor decided not to issue a statement announcing the signing of the legislation. The E-Verify program is overwhelmingly popular, with over 80 percent of Americans supporting its mandatory enactment. The Governor is wrong on this issue and I support local cities and counties that choose to challenge the constitutionality of this law.

[From the Press Enterprise, Oct. 20, 2011]

REGION: CITIES SCRAMBLE IN WAKE OF E-VERIFY BILL

(By Kevin Pearson)

A number of Inland cities may be forced to repeal ordinances requiring businesses to verify that employees are not undocumented immigrants, now that the state has prohibited cities from mandating use of the federally run E-Verify system.

The law that was signed this month and goes into effect Jan. 1 left cities with few other options, but it has stoked the debate on both sides of the issue about the state's role in immigration issues.

E-Verify, created in 1996 by Rep. Ken Calvert, R-Corona, is operated by the Department of Homeland Security. It can be used to ensure that an employee has the legal right to work in the United States.

The new state legislation does not prohibit businesses or government entities, including cities and counties, from using E-Verify; it does prohibit making E-Verify's use a requirement to do business within those cities or counties.

In the past year and a half, Temecula, Murrieta, Lake Elsinore, Hemet, Menifee, Wildomar, Norco and San Bernardino County have passed ordinances requiring businesses to use the system, to varying degrees. The Inland area is home to the majority of municipalities in the state with such ordinances.

The state law comes as a bill is making its way through Congress that would require every business in the nation to use E-Verify, signaling that the issue between cities, states and the federal government may just be getting started.

"Right now, across America, various states and local governments are enacting mandatory E-Verify," Calvert said in a statement. "Meanwhile, California is going the other way . . . and in fact the Governor is signing laws to preempt the use of E-Verify. This is an outrage."

CITIES AFFECTED

When Gov. Jerry Brown signed the bill last week, he released no signing statement and the move largely flew under the radar. But the text of the bill cited the costs that businesses incur to implement the system, and concern about the accuracy of the system.

Though E-Verify is free to use, the bill noted that there could be a significant cost to businesses in staff time and other resources. And while Calvert's office boasts that E-Verify is 99.5 percent accurate, other studies have questioned that figure.

As word spread about the new bill, cities in Riverside County began working on how to react. Officials in some of those cities said